



026.00121

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Bouyer et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/800,065 ) Examiner: J. Graser  
Filed: March 6, 2001 ) Art Unit: 1645  
For: RICKETTSIA FELIS OUTER )  
MEMBRANE PROTEIN )

#9/A  
Jm  
4/11/03

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application  
as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

25. (Amended) An isolated Rickettsia felis outer  
membrane protein encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim  
1.

TECH CENTER 1600/2800

APR 09 2003

RECEIVED

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up version of  
this claim accompanies this amendment.

**REMARKS**

In response to the restriction requirement,  
applicant's elect the invention of Group I (claims 1-11, 13-16  
and 21), with traverse.

Claim 25 has been amended to depend from claim 1.  
Accordingly, claim 25 is a linking claim, and the claims of  
Group VII and VIII, which depend from claim 25 should,  
therefore, be examined on the merits with the claims of Group  
I. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (MPEP

NO PROS  
4/11/03  
Jm